

# THE CONSERVATION SECURITY PROGRAM (CSP)

## Punta de Agua-Tramperos

New Mexico-Texas

August 26, 2004

### WATERSHED STATISTICS:

#### Watershed Surface Area

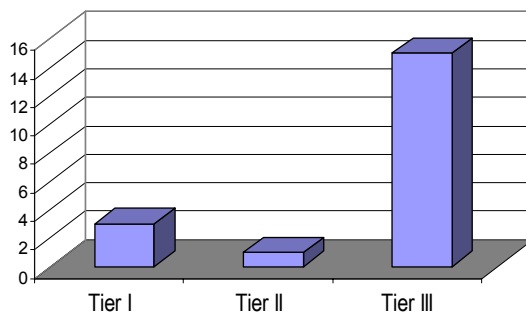
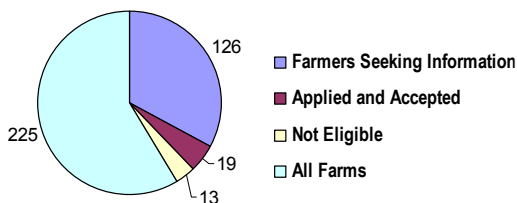
(in acres): 1,075,300

#### Number of Farms:

(U.S. 2002 Ag Census): 225

#### Watershed Description:

(Attributes and challenges) The Tramperos-Punta de Agua Watershed has long been a ranching and farming area. The area was first settled in the latter part of the nineteenth century by a few Spanish and American settlers who moved in along creeks. Most of the dry land farming pioneer development took place after 1900, when farmers took up homesteads and began to cultivate the land. Although these early attempts at growing crops were sporadic and often discouraging because of periods of drought, many of the homesteads areas remained under cultivation until the 1930's when this area suffered extreme drought. Today, much of the cropland is irrigated and a large percentage of the watershed is used for grazing livestock, mainly cattle and sheep.



The majority of the 19 contracts qualified as Tier III contracts. The applicants are treating all of the resource problems on their agricultural operations. The total amount of payments made in FY 2004 is \$586,373. Payments will be made for five years for Tier I contracts and for 10 years for Tier II and Tier III contracts.



*"You don't sit behind a desk and determine how many cows per acre you should stock. You have to know how the pastures are running."*

*Sam Britt, rancher*

**For more information:  
[www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)**

## Close-up

# *Punta de Agua-Tramperos Watershed*

The day had been relatively calm ...



... with light wind from the southwest. The dust storm rolled in on a very light breeze, but about 15 minutes later a regular hurricane struck which lasted 30 minutes. Visibility was zero, and tightly closed rooms were filled with fine choking dust.

Clayton, New Mexico from atop the Palace Hotel, May 21, 1937



Jim and Kathleen Hill, owners and operators of the H Ranch in the Tramperos-Punta De Agua Watershed in west Texas, earned high level enrollment into the Conservation Security Program (CSP) on their 7,819 acre ranch. With existing conservation practices, they have exceeded the program criteria for water quality and quantity concerns, and have chosen to be involved in the program for the maximum of 10 years. The H Ranch has also met all of the enhancement options in their ongoing quest to improve their land and manage the natural resources.

Windmills, water storage facilities, overflow areas, and cross fencing were installed on the H Ranch in an effort to create better grazing distribution and rotational grazing systems for their cattle, and water source availability for wildlife.

Jim and Kathleen Hill have been making conservation efforts that make a difference.

The Conservation Security Program is introducing NRCS to some farmers and ranchers that have quietly been practicing outstanding conservation for years. Sam Britt from the Tramperos-Punta De Agua watershed in northeastern New Mexico is one of those individuals.

“You don’t sit behind a desk and determine how many cows per acre you should stock,” Britt said. “You have to know how the pastures are running.”

This advice may be well taken, for New Mexico has been in a drought for the past five years. And Britt is keeping his country in good shape with a variety of plants one would not expect to find in these drought conditions.

Sam Britt is a conservationist in a true land-lover’s tradition.

